

Saturday Afternoon's Talk with S.

July 24, 1943.

He did not mention the declarations of Amgot, Sisenower or Alexander. Seemed to have cooled down.

is impatient that your friend M. has not been to see him as he said he would.

One of his two men is back from Italy. The other is down near Naples still. The situation as he sums it up is:

The Catholics are against an uprising. They say fascism is already beaten -- on the battlefield.

Fascio d'Azione divided about advisability of uprising.

Anti-fascist military men approached were able to answer for themselves but would not say they could swing their men into line.

S was asked what the object of the uprising would be. He was against promising economic advantages because the uprising would immediately cut off the coal supply and soon result in the workers being out of jobs. He suggested for the time being purely political motives, such as overthrow of the monarchy. To this his friends replied that workers would not fight for purely political objects -- too abstract. Nor did they ~~think~~ think that ~~the~~ fighting just to help the allies would be a sufficient object to get the desired action. Result: S is speculating upon the possibility of staging an ~~anti~~ uprising touched off by a cleverly staged occasion. ~~XXXX~~ If Italian food is known to be shipped from Milan to Germany, he imagines getting his people to start a riot in which they loot the cars and distribute the food on the spot, get into a gun-fight with the police ten minutes before blackout-time.

What he hopes to accomplish finally is the workers barricading themselves in the factories with arms and all their food supplies. Thinks the industrialists would never order that their factories be fired upon. Thinks the Germans in the cities affected would scatter to the four winds. Thinks the German military would never be used against the Italian workers, because it would make Italy arise en masse.

Has come to conclusion socialists alone could hold certain quarters of certain cities one week or ten days -- but then lose out unless either helped Italian military or invasion troops. Wonders how about coordinating it with invasion. Says workers could do wonderful job of disrupting communications and transportation few days before invasion.

He is playing with the idea of going to Italy himself to see about things. (The more I think of the Amgot declaration the smarter I think it was; it implies that negotiations with refugees and the starting of revolutions are of use to us only insofar as they occur before our boys have fought and bled to overcome the existing régime). At any rate S seems more impatient than ever to get into action.

Says bombardment of Rome seems to have shocked everyone except the Italians. Italians outside of Rome even seem to think it was a bright idea. The ones in Rome expected it.

Wants you to know that their leader in Messina (and his wife) have been arrested. The name is Lomonace, Dr. of medicine, around 70 years old.

Enclosed are two cables he would like to send.